

LIBRARY NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

by State Library staff



INDIANA LIBRARY NEWS

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in Washington, D.C., announced that the Vigo County Public Library is one of the 72 organizations that will receive grants to support the Big Read program. The Big Read is a new national program by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts – Midwest, which encourages literary reading by asking communities to read and discuss one book. The **Vigo County Public Library** was awarded \$10,000 to promote and carry out the month-long, community-based program. The Big Read in Vigo County took place from late February through March and featured F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

Readers set a new Guinness World Record™ for the “Most People Reading Aloud Simultaneously in Multiple Locations” at the **Anderson Public Library** and 2,414 other locations across 50 states and 27 countries. Participants read aloud in unison a passage from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* as part of a worldwide effort to attract children to reading and readers to the book.

“Kids have a fascination with world records,” said Christie Hamm, the Children's Services Manager at the library. “Plus it gives kids a chance to feel connected to something bigger.”

The **St. Joseph County Public Library** has begun using radio frequencies to loan books and other materials at its North Liberty and Lakeville branches. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is an automated method that relies on tags attached to books and other materials to identify and track them using radio waves. The RFID system will allow patrons to check out a stack of library materials at one time rather than scanning them item by item. The system will also help with inventory and can report instantaneously whether any book on a row of shelves is misplaced. Over the next four years, the library plans to expand the RFID project to serve the entire library system at a total cost of one million to two million dollars. Once the system is in place, virtually all checkouts of library materials will be self-service with library employees available to assist.

The Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library was destroyed in October by fire but has opened its temporary home at the Williamsport American Legion. Many individuals and libraries have donated materials, volunteer hours, and resources to assist the library. Library Director Chris Brown commented in an e-mail:

“I would like to thank everyone who has sent books, media and supplies; thanks to you we now have a library. At this point we are filled to capacity and beyond. So please hold on to your books or give them to others that could use them. Our collection has literally come from all over the U.S. and as far away as Mexico and Canada. From Seattle, WA to Boston, MA., we are the library that the people built!”

Currently, the Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library is being rebuilt and is projected to reopen in October 2007.

The Allen County Public Library received a national government accounting and financial reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The library was awarded the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report.

INDIANA LIBRARIES RECEIVE GRANTS

The Culver-Union Township Public Library received a grant of more than \$6,000 from the Marshall County Community Foundation to purchase a digital microfilm reader and scanner for the library's developing local history and genealogy division. A grant of more than \$1,000 was awarded to the **Dunkirk City Public Library** for the purchase of 68 new books. The Libri Foundation awarded the grant with the help of a \$350 matching grant from the newly formed Friends of the Dunkirk City Public Library and Glass Museum. The Libri Foundation also awarded the **Oakland City Public Library** a \$450 “Books for Children” grant. **The Indiana State Library's Talking Book and Braille Library** received a \$950,000 grant from the Ruth Lilly

Philanthropic Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase soundproof recording booths and recording equipment for its Talking Books program. The library will focus on recording books and magazine articles with Indiana connections that are otherwise unavailable in an audio format.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR NEWS

Dave Ewick has resigned as Director of the **Fulton County Public Library** to become Director at the Southfield Public Library in suburban Detroit. **The Brookston-Prairie Township Public Library** hired Tammy Jones as Library Director. Manuel Montalvo was appointed as Interim-Library Director of the **East Chicago Public Library**.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The McCollough Branch of the **Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library** re-opened in January after extensive renovations that had closed the branch since August. The new addition of the **Wells County Public Library** opened in January. Meanwhile, work will continue on remodeling the original portions of the building and is scheduled for completion by April. The expansion and renovation project at the **Brazil Public Library** is progressing and expected to be completed by spring. Work on the **Margaret Cooper Public Library** in Linton is under way. The new \$1.3 million facility was projected to be completed in June 2007. The **South Whitley Public Library** completed an expansion project in February. The expansion, which included a children's room, meeting rooms, an elevator, and restrooms, was funded by grants from the Whitley County Community Foundation, DEKKO Foundation, and the Mary K. Peabody Foundation. The **Clinton County Public Library** received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the construction of a branch library in Michigantown.

Compiled by the Indiana State Library